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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	Wolfram Mining in Nanp'eng, Kwangtung	DATE DISTR.	29 January 1953	
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1. In early September 1953, Chinese Communist authorities were allowing the residents of Nanp'eng (N 21-37, E 112-20) to mine wolfram ore without restrictions.¹ The Communists were paying JMP 32,000 per catty for the raw ore. A small steamer sailed to the island two or three times a day to transport the ore to the mainland.
2. There were approximately 2,000 miners on the island in a total population of approximately 3,000 persons. About 30 percent of the residents of the island were natives of T'aishan (N 22-15, E 112-48), and the rest were natives of Yangchiang (N 21-52, E 111-53).¹ The workers were divided into ten gangs, each of which selected its own site for digging. All the mining was done by hand. The miners lived in tents, but construction was under way on about 20 barracks for the workers. Three ferry boats ran between Nanp'eng and Yangchiang taking three to four hours to make a trip.
3. During the Japanese occupation, the mines were so fully exploited that the two main mines were excavated below sea level; as a consequence the pits filled with water. Most of the mining in September 1953 was being done on the southern part of the island.
4. One platoon of the Yangchiang Hsien border defense unit of about 20 men and equipped with 60-mm mortars was stationed on the island. Permanent defenses were limited to some foxholes in the hills around the harbor; no gunboats, with the exception of a few armed customs cutters used to intercept smugglers, operated in the area.

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- 25X1 1. Comment. conscripted laborers and prisoners were reported being used on Nanp'eng Island near Yangchiang for wolfram mining during March 1952 and 1953. The mine,
- 25X1 was under the supervision of a Soviet Lieutenant Colonel.
- 25X1 The wolfram from these mines was being sent to Canton for shipment to the USSR

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